

73-0777

23 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Clarke

SUBJECT : Status Report on COINS Project

1. This report is in the form of a fact sheet for use in connection with the IRAC meeting on Monday, 23 July 1973. OMB has requested (by letter of 14 July 1973 from Mr. Bridgewater to Mr. Colby) that a plan for COINS development and FY-75 funding thereof be available for review prior to November 15, 1973. This letter is at Attachment 1.

25X1 2. Responsive to prior initiatives involving OMB, DCI and ASD(I), an interagency group chaired by a representative of OASD(I), Dr. Malkin, convened last fall and prepared a COINS Report dated 1 February 1973. The recommendations of this report were approved on behalf of the DCI by letter of 9 April 1973 from General Allen to [ ]

3. The principal actions recommended by the Report are now being implemented, as follows:

a. The recommendation that ASD(I) become Executive Agent for COINS, under DCI auspices, has been carried out.

b. The recommendation that the COINS Project Office be placed under the Executive Agent has been carried out.

25X1 c. The recommendation that the COINS Project Office be staffed by representatives of the entire community stands as follows. The COINS Project Manager states that at present his Office, located at [ ] He states that he is preparing a request to augment his existing staff by 9-12 additional billets and people from the community. He seeks these people to assist consumers make greater use of COINS and to improve the quality of COINS files.

d. The recommendation to upgrade COINS to the TK level. This upgrading was directed by letter of 9 April 1973 from General Allen to the Directors of DIA, NSA and CIA/NPIC. Technical arrangements to put this decision into effect have been completed and the system is now at a TK level.

e. The recommendation to improve and expand the substantive files included in COINS is being acted upon by means of a Files Selection Working Group. This interagency panel has been meeting

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regularly since April to review the structured files of substantive information maintained by the several agencies and to evaluate their potential for interagency use through COINS. The schedule of this working group calls for their work to be concluded this fall. The implementation of their conclusions, however, depends on the outcome of the efforts (see next paragraph) to upgrade the hardware aspects of the COINS system.

f. The recommendation to submit a detailed plan for upgrading the COINS system is being acted upon as follows.

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(3) The COINS Project Manager's people are meeting with COINS Sub-System Managers in the several agencies to collect information leading to the preparation of a Technical Development Plan (TDP). This plan concerns making the practical arrangements for transition from the existing COINS system to the upgraded COINS II system, while maintaining service to customers. It includes budgetary projections for all agencies for several years beginning with FY-75. Funding implications for TDP are not yet known; however, funding needs for the total COINS system appear to relate primarily to (1) and (2) above.

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f. The recommendation that COINS management reporting be strengthened, to allow evaluation of usage, timeliness and effectiveness. The COINS Project Manager states that statistical reporting procedures were completely revamped in January 1973, and that procedures are being developed to measure utility of COINS on a regular basis. Personnel and funding, not now available, will be required to carry out these functions most effectively.

4. Status of Funding for COINS

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a. [redacted] The details of examining substantive files and working out technical plans for computer netting made it impracticable to utilize these funds before their expiration on 30 June 1973. This conclusion was reaffirmed on 20 June in a meeting that included [redacted] (Community Comptroller) and [redacted] (Director PPB/CIA).

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b. COINS Project Manager's Office current lack of funds. The COINS Project Manager states that there are no funds specifically programmed at this time for the upgrading of COINS during FY-74 and FY-75. He advises that heretofore he has been dependent on funds which he could obtain from DIA and NSA. He has proposed to OASD(I), as one alternative to regularize funding for the future, that COINS be established as a separate FYDP Program Element within the Defense budgeting system.

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(5) Universal retrieval language. There is consensus that a major improvement needed by COINS is a single language applicable to all COINS files for use by analysts in putting their inquiries into the computerized system. It is our understanding that ASD(I) staff now has this under study. The COINS Project Manager's financial projections, summarized above, do not provide for funding this item.

(6) Additional file storage facilities. The financial projections summarized above do not provide for this contingency. The work of the Files Selection Working Group, to be completed this fall, will provide a further basis for sizing this problem, but no estimates have yet been formulated by the participating agencies relative to these possible costs.

d. Requirements for funding by agencies. The computer netting report (assuming acceptance by the several agencies) calls for the COINS Project Manager's Office to fund the hardware and software for the COINS network and its installation and maintenance, and to provide personnel to operate the Network Control Computer. DIA, NSA and CIA/NPIC are to provide software and personnel to interface their respective computers with the COINS network. DIA, also, is to fund for and manage the interfacing of the IDHSC network with COINS. (See Attachment 2 for further details on these proposed funding arrangements.)

Attachments (2)

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DCI COINS WG Representative  
DCI/IC/CCG

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# 1. Executive Summary

## a. Introduction

This document is a concept paper, and is submitted in fulfillment of the NSA/DIA Terms of Reference for the Computer Netting Group (see Appendix I). It presents a method for the inter-netting of computers - initially to include computers at NSA, DIA and NPIC - to upgrade the communications support for the users of COINS (Community On-Line Intelligence System).

The upgrade of the communications support is by means of two networks - a COINS network modelled upon ARPANET techniques, and a portion of the IDHSC (Intelligence Data Handling System Communications) network. The ARPANET concept of dual communication paths throughout the COINS network and the portion of the IDHSC network providing COINS service is retained. The COINS network features high speed communication links (50 to 64 kilobit per second) and communication computers at the nodes of the network. These nodes are configured as either IMPS (Interface Message Processors) or TIPS (Terminal Interface Processors). COINS service to users in the Intelligence components of the Military Services and the Unified and Specified Commands will be by means of IDHSC.

Conceptually, there are five classes of data communication utilized in the intelligence community at present:

- Remote Job Entry
- Interactive
- Bulk Transfer of Data
- Indications and Warning
- Graphics (Line Drawing Terminals)

At present, COINS only supports a simplified version of the first - Remote Job Entry. It is required that the upgrade of the COINS communications will support both the current simplified Remote Job Entry and Interactive Communications.

## b. Objectives

The following recommendations were contained in the recent ASD(I) evaluation of the experimental COINS network. This report was approved by the DCI on 9 April 1973:

"The COINS PMO<sup>1</sup> submit a detailed plan for an upgraded system which will address the weaknesses noted in section V in a cost effective manner. Specifically to be addressed are means to eliminate

<sup>1</sup> The COINS PMO is the COINS Program Management Office

the switch, provide interactive capability to all users, and the inclusion of world-wide user hosts and participants."

This agreement for the upgrade of the communications support for the users of COINS answers part of these recommendations; specifically it:

(1) Eliminates the need for a user to have a separate remote terminal for each computer system in the intelligence community to which he is authorized access.

(2) Eliminates the present central store-and-forward switch at DIA (the 360/30) which:

(a) Is a single point of failure in the present COINS network.

(b) Represents an annual rental cost of more than \$160,000 per year.

(c) Restricts COINS to batch interrogations vice interactive.

(3) Provides at least one alternative communication path for each major node.

(4) Permits the addition of interactive information systems to COINS. The ASD(I) report identified a number of information systems which should be included in the upgrade of COINS; many of these are interactive:



(5) Provides for the inclusion of "world wide hosts and participants".

(6) The plan is cost effective in that it makes full use of technology developed, tested, used - and paid for - by the Advanced Research Project Agency (ARPA) of the DoD.

c. Responsibilities

The COINS Project Management Office will:

- o Fund and procure the hardware and software comprising

the COINS network: the IMPS, the TIPS, the Network Control Computer, the COMSEC equipment, the hardware required to interface the IMPS and the TIPS to the Host computers, and the communication circuits.

- Fund for contractual support to install and maintain the hardware and software included in this subnet.
- Provide personnel to operate the Network Control Computer

DIA, NPIC and NSA will:

- Provide space and facilities (e. g., power, air conditioning, etc.) for the installation of an IMP or TIP as appropriate. In addition, NSA will provide for the Network Control Computer.
- Provide personnel to operate their local IMPS and TIPS
- Write the software required to interface their respective Host computer(s)<sup>1</sup> to their IMP or TIP.
- Implement whatever changes to the current COINS Host-to-Host protocol as are necessary (e.g., remove all activity concerning the SWITCH, adjust message buffer size, etc.)

DIA has management responsibility for:

- Interfacing the IDHSC network to the COINS network, except for the hardware interface between the IMP and IDHSC communications computer interfacing to the COINS network as a Host computer, as provided above.
- Procurement, installation, and maintenance of unique hardware and software concerned with IDHSC.
- Providing secure communication facilities and protocol to COINS users in IDHS - initially CINPAC and CONAD.
- Hardware (other than that to interface to the IMPS and/or TIPS), software and protocol required to provide COINS support to the Intelligence components of the Military Services and the Unified and Specified Commands
- For maintaining COINS service to COINS users in the

1. The DIA Host computer referred to is an IAS system, described below in section 4.b.



Intelligence components of the Military Services and the Unified and Specified Commands if the upgrade of IDHSC has not been completed when the COINS network has been declared operational

d. Outline of Report

The report begins with a description of the present COINS network and a presentation of the need for its replacement. This is followed by descriptions of available technology which can be capitalized upon to build the proposed network at minimum cost, within a minimum time period:

- The ARPANET, which is an operational, state-of-the-art network.
- IAS (Interactive Analysis Station), a computer system being developed for intelligence data processing in a network environment.
- The digital communication services, including the TETRA-HEDRON Network, available in the Washington D. C. area.

A concept for implementation is outlined. This implementation requires a set of discrete tasks grouped in implementation phases. The COINS network is to be operational in a minimum time period.

e. Status

The present COINS network will continue to operate and to provide service while the upgraded communication system is being implemented. The transition from the present network to the upgraded network must be achieved with minimum degradation of service to operational users.